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HB 5503 Act Requiring the Study of Technology in the State

New Energy Technologies

Public Hearing, March 9, 2016

Energy and Technology Committee

SMART THERMOSTATS

OFFER CONNECTICUT NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND DEMAND RESPONSE

My name is Edward Levene, Vice President with Levco Energy based in Norwalk Connecticut. We have been involved in the sale of electricity in Connecticut for over 15 years enrolling over 300,000 Connecticut consumers supply programs with our electric supply partners like, Connecticut based Crius Energy and we are active in Connecticut in the HVAC business.

Smart Thermostats offer Connecticut consumers new opportunity for energy savings and demand response.

Smart Thermostats offer energy savings by evaluating, full home occupancy, areas of the home not being occupied, current weather and forecasted weather and adjust the home temperature to be at the desired setting when the home is occupied reducing and saving energy.

The Smart Thermostats identify energy efficiency savings of 10-20% compared to standard thermostats.

DEMAND RESPONSE

Smart Thermostats have demand response capability at no additional cost built right into the thermostat. At no additional cost to the State or the grid system, the Consumer Smart Thermostats can provide increased demand response for the State of Connecticut during critical energy periods.

During a Demand Response event Smart Thermostats can be automatically adjusted up or down a few degrees. Air conditioning condensers can be controlled and the circulating fans can continue to operate. When combining homes together and rotating the use, homes can stay comfortable, produce demand response benefits and save consumers money during critical energy periods

WHAT SHOULD THE STATE BE DOING

The State should grant a State Authority the ability to call upon the demand response capacity when needed. By simply sending out an email alert when requested by New England ISO or when the interest of the State is enhanced, the demand response assets can be utilized.

The ability to call upon existing demand response assets in the State of Connecticut provides positive benefits to the system at the time of critical energy events and also works to reduce system and consumer cost year round with the added demand response ability.

Conclusion

Smart Thermostats are a current new ability for consumers to automatically reduce energy when the energy is not needed and provides demand response for the system when desired. The State should encourage the use of Smart Thermostats and provide a State Authority the ability to call upon the demand response assets when needed.

I am glad to offer additional information about Smart Thermostats, their energy efficiency and the ability to trigger the Demand Response capability.